

THE SEEKER

CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2017



HUMAN FLOURISHING

What does a flourishing life look like? Miroslav Volf, professor of Systematic Theology and Director of Yale Center for Faith and Culture, in his recently published book *Flourishing: Why We Need Religion in a Globalized World* (2016), is essentially asking, what does the good life look like? Is my flourishing tied to others? Can I flourish if others are not? Does my flourishing depend on the flourishing of the world? Our faith, as Christ has shown, is based on love. So how do we expand our capacity to love deeply?

When I think about this from a Christian perspective, our faith teaches us that our life is not ultimately about only ourselves or our individual needs. Our faith challenges us to ask in what ways is my life serving or in solidarity with the people in the world. Our faith takes us outside ourselves and into the body politic.

This is not a new idea for us. Engaging the life of the world is at the core of being Presbyterian. It was central to John Calvin's understanding of what it means to be the church. Calvin imagined a church whose authority was not in its hierarchy, but in its people. That was a revolutionary idea at the time (and, by the way, one that our founders infused to the building of our nation and form of governance). Calvin said that not only does the individual have the right to participate in the governance of authority, but also that no authority has the right to coerce the individual's conscience. God alone is Lord of the conscience.

Embedded in what it means to live faithfully is the very Presbyterian idea to be informed, to stay educated on the issues of the day, and to express our faith beliefs, not just in our personal lives, and in our morality, but in a larger sense, to engage in the world in compassionate and just ways through political action.

On the Caldwell Church website www.caldwellpres.org, our Mission Committee has posted contact information for our state and national representatives. I urge all of us to visit our website and take a moment to voice your views to our representatives and engage in matters that you find yourself passionate about.

Secondly, this month we have a unique opportunity to engage in another very important faith practice, to explore how to deepen our spiritual disciplines that undergird our lives. Rev. Adele Calhoun will lead us on a midwinter Spiritual Retreat for the Soul. How can we more fully commune with our Creator, develop practices that will engage our faith and make a meaningful difference in the indwelling of peace in our lives? How do we face our own brokenness, relinquish the "false self," and flourish as sons and daughters of God? Sponsored by the sister churches of Lake George, we will meet at St. James for the first session on Friday evening, February 17, registration at 5:30, dinner where you'd like in Lake George, and first session from 7-8:30 p.m. We will reconvene Saturday from 8:30 until 3 p.m. I hope you will join me for what I know will be a very worthwhile experience.

May you flourish in new ways this February, and beyond.

Faithfully,

Ali

Mission of the Month



The Souper Bowl of Caring started in 1990 as a way to highlight the need to feed local people who are struggling to do it themselves. The first year they raised \$5,700 last year. It has grown by leaps and bounds and last year \$10,511,679 was raised!

All money generated from individual mission projects across the country stay in the communities where it is raised. Our goal is to raise money to support our food pantry. Over the course of the month Tom Jenna will be talking about the food pantry and we hope that you will consider helping support this very worthwhile outreach that our Church does.

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE PRESCHOOL,

Just a quick note to let you know that we are getting emails and phone calls from families interested in being part of the Caldwell family. We are excited to meet these families and look forward to the classes God is putting together for next year.

This week we are putting out our sign-up for our families already here to get on the list for next year and then we will know how many openings we have for the new families coming. Please continue to pray with us as we ask God for wisdom to know what to do if our waiting list gets longer this year.

I wanted to send out a big thank you to Ali for her commitment to connect the church family with our preschool family. The parents have enjoyed several coffee and interaction mornings with her this year, and enjoy the connections with each other.

We look forward to February with its cold and snow, and also the playful learning that is happening in the preschool.

**Serving with you,
Chris Sallstrom**



Christian Education Corner for February:

Here's what going on with our Christian Education team during the month of February.

Feb. 5- No class for the grades 7-12 class.

The 1-6 grade class will join the congregation for communion. Pre-school class will take place as usual.

Feb. 12- Baking with Patti. Lynda Glenn and Patti are organizing a baking session centered around Valentine's Day. Stay tuned for more details.

Feb. 19 and **Feb. 26** (Winter break) - no regular Sunday School class but we will hold two large group activities each Sunday. Crafts? Movie? Whatever Dana comes up with! Stay tuned for more details.

Sunday School teachers for February

Preschool- Sarah King and Yvonne Fuller

Grades 1-6- Lynda Glenn and Patti Broyzna

Grades 7-12- Jeb Trowbridge and Howard Nicols

We'd love to add your name here! See Sarah or Dana if you'd love to share your talents and faith with our youth.

On January 29th, Sunday School Teacher Training 101 was held. We discussed guidelines for teaching the various age groups of children at Caldwell, learned best practices and new techniques, and reviewed reformed theology that is the framework for how we nurture our children in faith. If you missed this training but are still interested in teaching our youth, please see Sarah or Dana.. Teaching blocks can be as brief as 1-2 Sundays, or longer, depending on *your* availability.

INSTRUCT
ENCOURAGE
PRAISE
INFLUENCE
SHARE
GUIDE
INSPIRE

Book Study Group will meet Weds., Feb. 8th

Please bring your own lunch and join us for a discussion on "Theodicy". We will meet from 12:00 to 1:30. The idea is for each of us to ponder this on our own, research if you like by using articles online or books, and come up with our own take on the matter.—All are welcome!

Fellowship and Hospitality

The Fellowship and Hospitality Committee arranges for Coffee hour hosts. Please check the bulletin board in the coffee room to see when your name appears. If you find the date you have been assigned is not good for you, we ask that you find someone to take your place or switch dates with someone else who is listed with their permission. PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHANGE ON THE CHART AND NOTIFY TOM JENNE (Tom's-cell-#716-870-0013).

We celebrate the first Sunday of each month as Birthday Sunday for all people who have birthdays in the current month. A cake is provided which will be found in the refrigerator in the church kitchen. You may choose to serve just cake and coffee or you may add other snacks as you see fit. There is a list of instructions to follow on the cupboard door near the sink describing how to make the coffee etc.



Coffee Hour Hosts:



February

- 5 Amrock Family
- 12 Pat Carpenter & Lesley Clemons
- 19 Helene Horn & Judy Dewey
- 26 Darlene & Bob Gunther

March

- 5 Cornelius Family
- 12 Mannix Family
- 19 Fuller Family
- 26 Linda Carr & Linda Glenn

Senior Breakfast: Monday, Feb.27th, 8:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn .
Program by John Marsi on Kenya. Cost \$7.50. Make reservations with Helene Horn by Feb. 25th at 656-9373.

Drivers Needed: Help transport area seniors to medical appointments. If you could take a turn driving even 2 or 3 times a year, that would help. From a high of 22 volunteers, we are now down to 10, including 4 from other churches. Contact Helene Horn at 656-9373.

February 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Mission Committee Mtg. 2:00	2 Choir 7	3	4
5 Communion Confirmation 11:15	6	7 <u>Supervisory</u> Mtg. 12:15 <u>Finance</u> Mtg 5:00	8 <u>C.E.</u> Mtg 5:30-Paneras <u>Book Club</u> 12-12:30	9 Choir 7	10 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	11
12	13	14	15 Deacon Mtg. 6:30	16 Choir 7	17 Retreat for the Soul 5:30-8:30	18 Retreat for the Soul 8:30- 3:00
19 WINTER BREAK FOR AREA SCHOOLS FEBRUARY 18-26th	20	21	22	23 No Choir	24 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	25
26	27	28 Session Mtg. 5:30				

Birthday's this Month:

Alex Parrot Kate Trowbridge
 Jean Stanton Ben Gorey
 Tom Roach Gale Freiburger
 Ann Kohland Olivia King
 Dana Whitcomb
 Peg Edwards



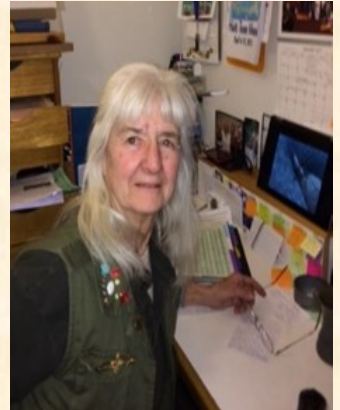
News from the Haiti Mission School

The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season is now over, and it's time to get back to work. For the leadership team of the Haiti Mission School, that means, among other things, it's time to get out donor tax letters. For JoEllen that means a chance to look at all the pictures of our students and to think about each one of them individually as she hand-writes notes about the students to nearly every donor. In the picture at right, she is hard at work. This year has been especially difficult for her as she was reminded of the many painful individual situations.

Often when there are big events such as Hurricane Matthew, I (Tom) tend to get caught up in the big picture... in the massive devastation... in the destruction of buildings... and the worry of how to replace them... in how to get supplies to Haiti, in the concerns about the future, etc. For JoEllen, taking time to pause... to remember each individual and to pray for each one by name is a labor of love.

Thanks to the Hurricane, times are difficult for our Haitian friends in the Labastille area... even more difficult than usual. Many still have only temporary roofs or are still living in tents. Food is scarce. Schools, for the most part are just now starting up. Rain and wind has been persistent, sometimes ripping away tarps covering housing, leading to a discouragement that according to our friends is palpable. Tempers tend to flare up easily.

On top of this came the news that Guy Phillipe, a duly elected member of the Haitian Senate from the Jèrèmie area was arrested and deported to the States. He has been on a wanted list in Haiti and the States for some time for alleged drug involvement (among other charges). The authorities' concern was that once he was installed in the Senate he would be immune to prosecution. The story is a long and involved one with politics involved and therefore a large degree of uncertainty as to the truth. The point, however, is that when word got out of his arrest, crowds began to form in Jèrèmie that blamed the U.S. They went after *blans*... white folk. Nearly all *blans* from the Jèrèmie area, including a team of 16 people working with our friend Lindsay Anderson, were hustled out by the Jèrèmie police to the U.N. compound, where they spent the night before being flown to Port Au Prince. As far as we know, no one was hurt in the melee, although the hotel where we stay was trashed along with many of the team's personal possessions. In the picture at left, you can see smoke from tires burning in the rioting.



The discouragement for our friends in Haiti, is that they know that nearly every *blan* is there trying to help. We are not the enemy. It is a lesson, however, in how crowds can get out of hand, especially when politics are involved and people are hurting and angry. Someone needs to be blamed and skin color is so easy to identify. The truth is that sooner or later (we hope sooner) this issue too shall die down, and cooler heads will eventually prevail.



We are trying to keep our focus on the school and the issues of the Labastille area: (1) get the kids back in school as soon as possible, which includes a lot of supply and infrastructure issues; (2) make certain that seeds are distributed to farmers; (3) get some food to area residents; (4) provide water purification kits; and (5) pray unceasingly for God's advice, guidance, leadership and support, and that we will pay attention. As this is written, our friend Bryan Bartow is attempting to free a container from customs that contains four tents (10x20) that can be used as temporary classroom space.

Current plans are for a 6-member team to head to Haiti in February. They plan bring more water purification kits and work together with our Haitian counterparts to lay plans for the future of the school. One other aspect of the trip is an Eagle Scout project relating to a cistern for a church/orphanage at Chateau that Howard has been working with.

We continue to seek your prayers as we attempt to get the school moving again and help the Haitians at Labastille to get back on their feet.

Retreat for the Soul

Giving God Room
to Transform Heart & Mind



Pre-Lent Retreat

led by

The Rev. Adele Calhoun,

author of

Spiritual Disciplines Handbook

**Friday, February 17 to
Saturday, February 18**

**St. James' Church,
172 Ottawa St., Lake George**

\$25

includes Saturday lunch

Scholarship & Childcare available

Call 518-668-2001 to register

**Sponsored by the Lake George Churches:
Caldwell Presbyterian, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic, St. James' Episcopal**

About Adele Calhoun:

Adele delights in the "hats" she has worn throughout her life. She has worked as a missionary, InterVarsity staff member, wife, mother, basket maker, quilt maker, spiritual director, college professor, author, jewelry maker, retreat speaker, icon writer, healing prayer minister, board member, pilgrimage leader, and pastor. Adele's passion is for people to move beyond religion to a connection with Jesus that unites both their head and their heart in service and love of others. Adele and her husband Doug have two children. Nathaniel and his wife Elie live and work abroad. Annaliese lives and works in Boston

Adele is a graduate of the University of Colorado (B.S.) and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (M.A.). Adele is adjunct faculty for The Transforming Center and Selah (a Spiritual Direction Training program). She co-authored *Opening Our Hearts and Home* with Karen Mains. Her own recent books are *The Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us, Revised and Expanded* (2105), *True You* (co-authored with Tracey Bianchi), *Women & Identity* (IVP Lifeguide Bible Studies co-authored with Tracey Bianchi), and *Invitations From God* (all from IVP). She regularly speaks at retreats and conferences on these topics. Doug and Adele are certified Enneagram trainers and enjoy presenting workshops and seminars together.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pamela Parrott, Lauren & Karen Azer, Justin & Alex Blanco, John Kohland, Ron Madeira, Peg & Les Edwards, KC Glenn, Len Bunalski, Judith Subisaretta, Tom Parsons, Ursula, the Seed Program in Haiti (for healthy crops to grow), Pastor Shawn, Andy Knoll & Melissa Thomas, Naylor Wells, Jack Amneli, Regan Brahler, Harry Spahn, Erica Ladu, Joyce Compson's mother, Mary Bradley, Jenne family, Kristine Snajder, Ralph Dudly, Sue Lustic, Keith & Sharon Koshak, Pat, Ella Moody.

Those Serving In The Military:

John-Navy Seal

Hospital, Nursing & Retirement Homes:

The Pines: Marion, Mary

Home of the Good Shepherd: Ree Humphrey

Those Who Mourn

Faith Weisner

Lesley Clemons

Joe Sandora's family

Earl family

Neil Andrew's family

Helen Dicken's Family

Richard Matha's family

Tom Collin's family

Caroline Becker's family

Ann Kohland's son-in-law's family

The Seeker

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

71 Montcalm St.

Lake George, NY 12845

All are welcomed into The Caldwell Church Family.

We would love to see you in church on

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM!

Contact Information:

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Secretary Email—secretary@caldwellpres.org

Pastor's Email—Ali@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org